

off-reservation gaming and their belief that if DOI approved any, it would have serious economic and political effects on on-reservation gaming nationwide.

Similarly, the Prairie Island tribe sent a letter to the MAO in January 1994 opposing the application and attaching a January resolution in which the tribe re-confirmed its previous opposition to the development of a casino in Hudson. Prairie Island asserted that “if the Hudson casino were in fact approved, it would impact our casino by no less than a 30% to 50% reduction in customers” and that this “loss in casino revenue would be devastating to our Community.”⁹⁵ It further asserted that the proposed casino “would saturate the already extremely competitive Minneapolis-St. Paul market area.” The tribe provided no data or studies to support the assertions of estimated customer loss or economic impact on its casino.

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe’s claim of potential economic harm to its members should be viewed in light of the fact that none of its tribes are close to Hudson. Several of the MCT tribes are hundreds of miles from Hudson. The MCT’s negative response to the Hudson application may have been due to MIGA’s having asked for their support, and/or a request from Mille Lacs Chairwoman Anderson, whose tribe was an active and vocal Hudson casino opponent.⁹⁶ Most of the MCT tribe leaders now concede that their tribes were simply too far removed to be impacted by the proposal.

⁹⁵Letter from Curtis Campbell to Robert Wynecoop, Jan. 31, 1994.

⁹⁶In addition to the Mille Lacs, another member of the MCT – the Leech Lake Band – passed a resolution opposing the Hudson dog track. The Leech Lake resolution made the same general objections as set forth in the MCT and MIGA resolutions. The Leech Lake reservation is located some 250 miles north of Hudson. Both John McCarthy and Myron Ellis, who was then Chairman of MIGA, had strong ties to the Leech Lake Band and may have asked the tribe to support their opposition efforts.